# SMALL CRAFT TO COMPOSE IT.

NO NEWS FROM THE SPANISH TOR-PEDO FLOTILLA.

An Admiral, Active or Retired, May Be Placed in Supreme Command of the Naval Forces-Usual Activity Prevailed Yesterday.

Washington, March 28.-The customary activity which had prevailed in all branches of the war and navy departments for the past month was apparent again to-day. Particularly was this the case in the latter, where Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt were on hand early, holding conferences with bureau chiefs and a number of visitors who had business of importance. Among the public men who saw Secretary Long was Senator Frye, of Maine. At 10 o'clock the secretary left the department for the White House, intending not to return until 2 o'clock.

There was no additional information at the department regarding the location of the Spanish torpedo boat flotilla now on its way to Puerto Rico from the Canaries, excepting that it was advancing steadily. The highest naval authorities continue to say that this movement is the most formidable menace to the ships of our navy that has yet occurred. It was disclosed for the first time by

one of the naval orders issued to-day that the department had determined upon the formation of an additional new fleet, to be known as "the mosquito fleet," to be composed of tugs, steam yachts and other small vessels which may be obtainable and which are to be used as a sort of mobile defense of sea coast cities. It was further developed in this connection that the naval militia of the several states is to be called upon to man this auxiliary

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The fact that Admiral Walker cabled from Nicaragua to the state department announcing his departure for home revives the speculation as to the likelihood of one of the brightest officers of the navy. active or retired, being placed in charge of the entire naval operations, including the fleet under Captain Sampson, Commodore Schley's flying squadron and any auxiliary lines of defense that may be established.

It was stated, however, at the navy de-partment that Admiral Walker's homebecause of the conclusion of the work of the Nicaragua canal commission of which he is president, and that it was not hastened because of the present naval activity. Moreover, the name of Admiral Bunce, who is still on the active list, is the most frequently mentioned among the highest naval officers as the one most likely to be chosen for this supreme command if it should be determined upon. In view of the great desire for ex-

perienced men in the naval service just this time, it is more than probable that the navy department will exercise considerable leniency in dealing with the cases of men who are charged with having deserted from the naval service and who remain absent from fear of punishment. In cases where the records of the men were previous to their desertion, they will in all probability, upon surrendering themselves at a receiving ship, be officially regarded as simple stragglers and not as deserters. According to the regulations a "straggler" is an enlisted man who has overstayed his leave and is subject to minor punishment. Deserters, however, are discharged from the service and are ineligible for reinlistment. It is recognized that many good men have left the service without permission during the past few years of peace who would willingly re-enter the navy and render good service in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. The probable policy of the department looking to a more liberal treatment of technical deserters is due in a great measure to the difficulty the men up to the naval requirements.

Commander Horace Elmers has been detached from Cramps navy yard and ordered to command "The Mosquito fleet" to be formed of all small craft that can have a con The Chempati and Casting carry a gun. The Cincinnati and Castine have arrived at Key West.

#### FLYING SQUADRON A FACT. Commodore Schley Takes Command and Hoists His Flag on the

Brooklyn.

Fort Monroe, Va., March 28 .- (With the American flying squadron, Hampton Roads, March 28.)-More than usual enthusiasm was displayed to-day by the officers and of that portion of the American flying squadron aiready assembled here of which Commodore Schley took command. There is always a perfunctory duty to be done in such cases, but the duty to-day was performed with an ill-concealed enthusiasm that bordered upon a breach of discipline. Officers smiled, however. The newly-detailed commander could not, in his pleasure at such a greeting, find fault, and the men were allowed to give full vent to their feelings. The significance of the greeting was in the general feeling that the first step toward the completion of what will be the free fighting squadron had been taken, and the men apparently were gratifled both with the step and with the choice of commanders, for Commodore Schley is known as a conservative yet absolutely fearless and determined fighter.

Commodore Schley left Washington last night and arrived at Fort Monroe early and a boat crew of samors who relieved him of his baggage and received informa tion that he would go aboard the Brooklyn, which he has designated as flagship. At 9:30 o'clock, after breakfast at the

Chamberlain, the commander of the Brooklyn, with some petty officers, took Commo-Schley aboard a launch and conveyed him to the fleet which lies near Newport The commodore was in civilian dress, but was saluted with the usual formalities as he passed up the Brooklyn's companionway, to begin active service. was shown to quarters which are more elaborate than upon any other warship affort, having been prepared for exhibit when the Brooklyn visited England during the queen's jubilee. Within a half boarding ship, Commodore Schley, in full uniform, was ready to take command, and the men of the fleet were drummed to quarters with the yards manned, the marines on deck and officers

and gunners at post. Commodore Schley stepped to the bridge of the Brooklyn, and, reading his command as commander, took possession. At the same instant, his flag was broken from the Brooklyn's masthead and one of the big guns belched forth a salute which was answered from the Massachusetts, lying

Then enthusiasm broke loose, and there was a roar of applause from the deck and yards. Shortly after, the officers of the battleship Massachusetts came aboard, and, together with the officers of the Brooklyn,

paid their respects. The second step in the formation of the squadron will take place this week, when the assignment of vessels is complete. For speed and strength this squadron will he unexcelled. At present the battleship Massachusetts, of 10,258 tons and capable of eighteen knots an hour, and the protected first class cruiser Brooklyn, of 9,217 tons and capable of twenty-two knots an hour. form the nucleus of the squadron. During the week it is expected that the Minneapolis, of 7,375 tons, with a speed of twenty-

A "MOSQUITO FLEET" three knots, and the Columbia, 6,735 tons, with a speed of twenty-three knots, will be added. While these fighting ships are rated as cruisers only, they are of a type equal to the best battleships of Spain. Brooklyn, particularly, is the highest type of a fighting machine and its equipment of rapid fire guns exceeds both in number and caliber any first class battleship of Spain. In speed, the squadron will be unexcelled, its average speed being twenty-one and five-tenths knots. The four best boats in the Spanish fleet average but eighteen and five-tenths knots. Commodore Schley said this morning to the Associated Press representative: "I have no orders to move, nor do I know when any will come. We are ready to move at the shortest kind of notice upon the completion of the fleet."

# NIGHT WORK ORDERED.

War Preparations to Be Conducted Under High Pressure at Brooklyn Navy Yard.

New York, March 28.-The work at the navy vard hereafter will be under high pressure. Orders have been issued to all the chiefs of the yard departments that day. In addition to the large amount of work for the yard in changes on the re cent purchases of yachts and tugs for the auxiliary navy, the ammunition hoists of the battleship Texas may be altered. These alterations will probably require a week. A story that the Texas had a hole in her hull is denied by the officers. There are now five yachts and seven tugs in the navy yard that have been purchased for use as an auxiliary fleet. The yachts are the Mayflower, Hermoine, Columbia, Almy and The tugs are the Ivins, Wise, Luckenbach, W. A. Luchenbach, El Toro Winthrop and Atlas. The two latter arrived at the yard to-day. The report of the board of survey to prepare specifications and es-timates for the alteration and armament of these vessels is under consideration at Washington. Naval Constructor Bowles, of the yard department of construction and repair, has been authorized to proceed wit the work. About 130 mechanics and black-smiths were hired by the construction department last week, and to-day thirty more nen were put to work.

The yard tug Nina C. carried a big shipnent of ammunition from Fort Lafayette to Perth Amboy to-day. The Pennsylvania railroad will transport it South fleets. Additional orders for shipment of stores to the various vessels in commis sion along the coast were received at the storekeeper's department to-day. The tug Traffic carried a big miscellaneous cargo of stores for shipment at Jersey City to-

day. The work of enlistment continues, and there are at present 131 men on the receiv-ing ship Vermont.

#### NO ST. LOUIS INDORSEMENT. Merchants' Exchange Will Not Declare Itself on the Span-

inh Crinin. St. Louis, March 28 .- It is announced this afternoon that the St. Louis Merchants' exchange will not follow the lead of the boards of trade of Boston and Philadelphia in officially indorsing the course of President McKinley in the present crisis or officially assuring the executive that its members would stand by him, whatever

his ultimate action might be. President Christopher Sharp refuses to put either of these questions to a vote, though he has been requested to do so. To-day he received a communication from the president of the Philadelphia board of trade, stating that that body had pledged itself to stand by the president of the United States, and asking him to obtain a similar pledge from the local exchange. Preceding this message came one from the executive of the Boston board of trade

asking for an indorsement of President McKinley's policy. Mr. Sharp replied to both that the St. Louis Merchants' exchange would defer

action "The exchange does not refuse to in dorse the president," said President Sharp.
"I do not believe in indorsing a policy before I know what that policy is. As to pledging ourselves to stand by the decision of the president, that would be useless. Every American will do that, once the de-cision is arrived at. It is not time for a body like ours to indorse a policy. That

# NAMES OF VESSELS CHANGED.

Yachts Named After Stinging Insects and Tugs After Indians or Indian Tribes.

Washington, March 28.-Secretary Long has issued an order changing the names of vessels recently purchased by the navy de-

partment as follows: Yachts—Alicia, to be called Hornet; Almy, to be called Eagle; Hermione, to be called

Wasp. Tugs-Edgar F. Luckenback, to be called Tecumseh; Walter A. Luckenback, to be called Uncas; Winthrop, to be called Osceola; P. H. Wise, to be called Sioux; El

Toro, to be called Algonquin.

The torpedo boat built for the German navy and recently purchased for the United States navy has been named the Somers, after the famous brig of that name which rendered such valiant service in the early

lays of the republic. In choosing designations for the tugs, Indian names were given, while for the sachts which are to be transformed into torpedo boats the names of stinging in-

orpedo boats the names of compensions sects were assigned.

The tug Atlas, of the Standard Oil Company, was purchased to-day by the government on approval of the naval auxiliary board. This makes eight tugs and five yachts that have been purchased by the

evernment.
Engineer Dickson and Naval Constructor Engineer Dickson and Naval Constructor Tawressy examined the steamer Horatto Hall, of the Marine Steamship Company at Chester, Pa., to-day. It is also said that the steamer Miamil was scheduled for examination at that point to-day.

The board's examiners will, it is said, look over a yacht which has been proffered and which is now at Wilmington, Del.

# TO MAN THE MONTAUK.

Ninety-five of the New Jersey Naval Militia Ordered to Be Ready for Service.

Trenton, N. J., March 28 .- Adjutant Gen eral Stryker received word from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt to-day to hold ninety-five of the New Jersey naval eserve in readiness to take the monitor Montauk from League Island navy yard to Portland, Me. Governor Voorhees said today that the order from Washington for day that the order from Washington for the transporting of the monitor is expected within two or three days. The ninety-five men have already been selected from the battallion of the East, comprising Jersec City and Newark. The members of the battallion are considered good sallors. Last summer they had considerable practice on the portsmouth and one day they had full charge of the battleship Maine off the coast of New London. They were complimented by the chief officers of the Maine.

# GERMANY'S POSITION.

The Fatherland Knows Better Than to Make Any Attempt at Interference. Berlin, March 28 .- A high official of the

German foreign office said to-day to the orrespondent here of the Associated "Germany will joyfully greet any step to improve Spanish-American relations,

but this interest does not go so far as to induce Germany to participate in offering mediation. Moreover, there is no indica-tion that America is inclined to suffer such pediation, nor on what basis." The Vossische Zeitung says: "The most dangerous is the second de-

mand, namely, under the cloak of humanitarianism, to aim at direct interference in Cuba. The Washington government in that goes beyond the limits. Spain can make concessions without humiliation and loss of dignity, but if America insists upon these demands, swords will come out of their scabbards."

The Tageblatt remarks: "The American jingoes underrate the in-

juries which a war will bring upon Amer-

The Boersen Courier says: "With an earnest desire that an understanding may be reached, even without mediation, diplomatic circles still count this as being the best solution, so long as neither one nor the other has taken the

irredeemable step."

The Berliner Post, in its comments, says: "President McKinley will doubtless do everything to avert war, but popular senti-

#### ment may decide to the contrary." ANTON L. SEIDL DEAD.

The Celebrated Musical Director a Victim of Poisoning From Eating Fish.

'New York, March 28.—Anton L. Seidl, the celebrated musical director, died suddenly in this city to-night of poisoning, probably

resulting from eating fish. Mr. Seidl left his home shortly after din-ner this evening and went to the home of his business agent, F. Bernstein. He had no sooner arrived there than he was take violently ill. The family physician of Mr. Bernstein was called. He immediately diagnosed the patient's trouble as ptmaine poisoning. Mr. Seidl ate fish for his dinner and the physician was of the opinion that the poison came from the fish.

About 10 o'clock Mr. Seidl became worse

that the poison came from the fish.

About 10 o'clock Mr. Seidl became worse and two other physicians were summoned. In spite of their efforts the patient continued to grow worse until 10:15 o'clock, when he died.

At the bedside of Mr. Seidl at the time of his death were Mrs. Seidl, his wife, Mr. Bernstein and the attending physicians. The body will be immediately moved to Mr. Seidl's residence, where the funeral services probably will be heid.

Anton Seidl was born in Pesth, Hungary, about 1850. When a young man he was secretary to Richard Wagner. After leaving the office of Wagner he began the study of music under Hans Richter, of Leipsic.

Mr. Seidl came to America about twelve years ago and at once became prominent in musical work. He was recognized as the ablest director of Wagnerian music.

At the time of his death he was conducting the concerts given at the Woldorf-Astoria and was recently selected as the director of the permanent orchestra of New York city, which has been recently organized and for which \$100,000 is being raised by subscription for maintenance.

He was also leader of the Philharmonic Society of this city and was to have been one of the musical directors of the Maurice grand opera company next season.

A short time ago he refused a call to the Royal opera at Berlin. The offer was made to him for a term of years, but he decided to remain in this country.

# LOPER UNDER ARREST.

Man Whose Borrowings Wrecked Philadelphia Bank to Be

Prosecuted. Philadelphia, March 28.-Richard F. Loper, vice president and general manager of the Guarantors' Finance Company, was placed under arrest this afternoon charged with conspiracy to defraud the People's bank. The warrant, which was sworn out by Albert Tabor, receiving teller at the People's bank, charges that when

Pecple's bank, charges that when the bank closed its doors on March 25, Loper was indebted to that institution to the extent of \$600.000, for which he had given securities that were actually worthless. Cashier John S. Hopkins, of the People's bank, committed suicide Thursday morning, March 24, after he had learned that application had been made for a receiver for the Grantors' company.

Mr. Loper subsequently entered bail before Magistrate Jermon in the sum of \$5.000. His bondsmen are Henry C. Ellistreasurer of the Guarantors' company, and Gilbert Reter.

President McManes, of the People's bank, to-night issued a sworn statement in which he personally agrees to make good all losses of the bank's proceeds. He says an examination reveals that the bank is insolvent, due to unauthorized and unlawful transactions between the dead cashier, John S. Hopkins and Richard F. Loper. The amount of these transactions will reach about \$700.000. It is understood that the capital stock of the bank, which is \$150,000, shall be paid in by the stockholders. In addition, President McManes consents to the appointment of Thomas W. Barlow as temporary receiver for the bank.

# SHOT BY HIS SON.

Insane From Drink a Cedar Rapids Man Attempts to Kill His Family.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., March 28.—While in-sane from drink about 8 o'clock this morning Marion Sadler, a man about 50 years old, attempted to kill his wife and son, Ar-

After firing four shots without effect the son shot his father, the bullet striking him in the stomach. The infuriated man dropped his revolver and ran for a rifle, which stood by a sofa. The son intercepted him and reached the weapon first and jumped on it with both feet. Mrs. Sadier then grabbed the revolver from the floor, and to save her son fired the weapon, the bullet passing entirely through the body near where the other one had struck. The crazed man soon ell exhausted. Both Mrs. Sadler and her son, who is 20

years old, made statements to-night and both agree in every particular. The dying man refused to-night to make an ante-mortem statement. He cannot live until

#### SEATTLE FATHER'S REVENGE. Slavs the Man Whom He Says Ruined Three of His Daugh-

ters. Seattle, Wash, March 28.-M. F. Schelderup, a well known insurance solicitor, was shot and killed by E. M. Bradley, a prominent contractor, on the corner of Third and Cherry streets in the presence of a large crowd of theatergoers. Schelderup large crowd of theatergoers. Schelderup was standing on the corner waiting for Miss Bessie Bradley, with whom he was going to the concert at the theater. Instead of being met by the young lady, he was met by her father, who, without a word, drew an old-fashioned Colt's revolver and shot Schelderup through the body. Schelderup fell to the ground and expired in a few minutes. Bradley turned and started toward the police station. He was overtaken by an officer and arrested was overtaken by an officer and arrested was overtaken by an officer and arrested before reaching the station. At the station he would make no state-ment beyond saying that he shot Schelder-up because he had rulned three of his daughters.

# DUEL ON A TRAIN.

Two Young Men Shoot Each Other in a Crowded Coach Near Summit. Gn.

Millen, Ga., March 28.-The night train of the Millen Southwestern railroad at New Summit, Ga., last night was the seeme of a duel to the death between William Oglesby, of Summit, and J. D. Holly, of Durdenville, both young men of prominence.

They had a misunderstanding about some trivial matter and rising in their some in

They had a misunderstanding about some trivial matter and, rising in their seats in the crowded, lurching car, commenced firing at each other. Holly was killed outright and it is believed that Oglesby will die of his wounds. The flying bullets narrowly missed some of the passengers and many of the women on board were thrown into hysterics.

#### TERRIBLE FRENCH TRAGEDY. Robber Murders a Family of Six Persons-Was Arrested and

Conferred. Paris, March 28 .- At Bernay, in the department of the Eure, yesterday evening, robber named Caillard murdered a family of six persons. Through a window of the house inhabited by the family, he shot and killed the husband, his wife and two chil dren, who were playing at a table. Calliard then entered the house and cut the throat of a little girl. Finally he blew out the brains of a bedridden woman I years of age. The murderer was arrested

#### number of other crimes. Double Indiana Tragedy.

and confessed to committing these and

Lafayette, Ind., March 28.—At Otterhein, twelve miles east of this city this evening. Frank Cunningham shot at Mrs. Emma Timmons with a Winchester rifle, but missed. He then turned the gun on Bertha Timmons, a 13-year-ou girl, who had ran away from the house, shooting her through the head, killing her instantly. Then, reentering the house, he shot and killed himself with a revolver.

GREAT BRITAIN ABOUT TO JOIN THE GAME OF GRAB.

COMPLETE CHANGE IN POLICY.

ABANDONS DEMAND FOR EQUAL COMMERCIAL STATUS.

Will Seize Upon a Slice of Territory Soon-Li Hung Chang Charged With Being a Traitor to China-Japan May Resist.

London, March 28 .- A statement has been obtained in a competent quarter respecting British intentions in China, in view of the naval movements in the far East. It is admitted that the British policy of maintaining the integrity of China, but demanding equal commercial status of all nations, has been abandoned, owing to the concessions made to Russia and Germany. It is added:

"The only course left Great Britain is to follow suit, obtain equal advantages with the other powers, and secure adequate compensation in her own interests. This explains British naval activity at Hong Kong and elsewhere. Therefore, a movement upor the part of Great Britain may be anticipated in the near future. It is deemed improbable that Japan, single-handed, or still less in conjunction with China, will combat the policy of the European powers. She will probably rest content with a compromise satisfactory to her pride and securing the position due her as the fruit of her vic-tories over China."

In the house of commons to-day, Mr. A Balfour, acting minister for foreign affairs, replying to Sir William Vernon Harourt, the Liberal leader, promised a ministerial statement on the situation in the ar East before Easter. The Globe (Conservative) says this after

"The disappointment of the government supporters at the progress of affairs in the ar East is becoming more acute. Unless some tangible advantage, riot will set in among its supporters. It is reported, how ever, from the best quarters, that the apparent diplomatic defeat of Great Britain masks a move of the greatest importance, which will give Great Britain a favorable

The Daily Chronicle says this morning i has reason to believe that an area of 10,000 square miles in the province of Shan Si has seen conceded by China to a syndicate of English capitalists.
"If this be true," says the Daily Chronicle, " it is obvious that Lord Salisbury has

approved the scheme."
The Daily Mail's correspondent at Pekin, telegraphing by way of Tien Tsin, says: "It is believed that Li Hung Chang i about to return to power and that another mission to Europe is possible. Prince Kung has refused to sign the Russo-Chinese con-

vention and has resigned the presidency of the Tsung Li Yamen." The British squadron, according to a dis patch from Hong Kong to the Daily Mail, has been ordered to Che Foo, on the north coast of the Shang Tung promontory.

There is reason to believe, according to a special dispatch from Shanghal, that the

nese affairs that, since his visit to St. Petersburg, Li Hung Chang has received

regular Russian pay.

A high Chinese official, whose patriotism is unquestioned, described Li Hung Chang

as a traitor. As yet, Japan has made no protest. Yokohama, March 28.-The unofficial sec tion of the press is actively urging the government to resist Russia's action in China but the official press is silent. The diet

will meet May 20. Pekin, March 28.-The Chinese garrison were withdrawn to-day from Port Ar-thur and Ta-Lien-Wan, the Russians landing, and the Russian flag was hoisted at both places.

#### FANNY DAVENPORT BETTER. Rallied Gradually Yesterday and There Is Some Hope for Her

Recovery. Chicago, March 28.-The condition of Miss Fanny Davenport, the actress, which was reported as extremely critical last night, was at first said to be improved to-day, her physicians stating that Miss Davenport had passed a comparatively comfortable night. That her condition was still regarded as serious, however, was evidenced by the fact that a consultation of physicians was held to-day. Miss Davenport's relatives have been telegraphed for,

Later in the day it was stated by those in attendence upon the celebrated actress that the patient was at death's door and slender hopes of her recovery were entertained.

To-night the condition of Miss Davenport was slightly improved. A gradual rally was noticed by her physicians during the day and by night the patient's chances for recovery were considered better than for some days previous.

#### JOINS CATHOLIC FAITH. Miss Emma Arnold, Formerly an Episcopalian, Changes

Creed. New York, March 28.-Following closely in the footsteps of her friend, Miss Elizabeth M. Gourney, Miss Emma Arnold, a weil known worker in the Protestant Episcopal church in this city, has united with the Catholic communion.

with the Catholic communion.

Miss Arnold communicated to none of
the members of her family her intention
of changing her faith, and all of them
were greatly surprised at her action when
they learned of it.

From her childhoed Miss Arnold has always been identified with church work and
was very devout. She comes of a family
long prominent in the social world of Philadelphia, where they formerly resided.

New York, March 28.-Mrs. Elizabeth Van Name, a widow 25 years of age, died of hydrophobia at her home in West New Brighton, Staten Island, to-day, Mrs. Name was hitten on February 7 by a amuck through the town, biting

Died of Hydrophobia.

# BRIEF BITS OF NEWS.

Governor Leedy, of Kansas, has appointed M. H. Haskins coronor of Kingman county to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Coronor S. Laning. Governor Barnes has appointed Dr. Rob-ert Wilson, of El Reno, member of the Oklahoma board of dental examiners, to succeed Dr. D. A. Peoples, of Guthrie, re-

moved.

Bernard Eveler, 88 years of age, one of the oldest residents of Jefferson City, died yesterday afternoon of general debility. Mr. Eveler had resided in Jefferson City for

### CITIZENS IF BORN HERE.

Supreme Court Hands Down an Im portant Decision on Citisenship of Chinese.

Washington, March 28.—The case of the United States against Wong Kim Ark was decided in the United States supreme court o-day, Justice Gray handing down the deision of the court. The case was appealed by the United States from the district court or the Northern district of California, and it involved the citizenship of a person

for the Northern district of California, and it involved the citizenship of a person born in this country of Chinese parents, which had never heretofore been decided by the supreme court. To-day's decision will have the effect of confirming the citizenship of such persons.

Wong Kim Ark was born in the United States in 1873 of Chinese parents, who had resided here for several years. When he grew up the young man returned to China for a visit, and upon his attempting to return without presenting the usual certificate, he was detained on shipboard by the collector at San Francisco upon the ground that under the laws restricting Chinese immigration he has not entitled to land. Wong Kim Ark thereupon applied to Judge Morrow, of the United States district court, for a writ of habeas corpus, alleging that he was an American citizen because of his birth in this country and regardless of the nationality of his parents.

The question was a new one, but after giving it due consideration Judge Morrow issued the writ, thus deciding the question in the Chinaman's favor, giving him his liberty so far as the court could do so, and recognizing his citizenship.

The United State attorney appealed the

liberty so far as the court could do so, and recognizing his citizenship.

The United State attorney appealed the case to this court, but in the meantime Wong Kim Ark was admitted to built in his own recognizance. The case has been pending since 18%, when Wong Kim Ark landed in San Francisco. There are said to be several thousand persons in the United States whose status as citizens will be affected by the decision rendered to-day.

#### SMOKING CIGARS ON A WAGER. Eighty-six Strong Regalins Disposed of in Nine Hours on a Thames

Steamer in 1860, from Pearson's Weekly. curious wager in the year 1800, in which he backed himself to smoke one pound weight of strong foreign regalias within twelve hours. The conditions were that the cigars should be smoked one at a time

twelve hours. The conditions were that the cigars should be smoked one at a time to within an inch of the end, the backer of time, as in the case of some pigeon matches, finding the weeds.

The match was decided on a Thames steamer plying between London and Chelsea, the smoker taking up a position well forward in the bows, where he caught the force of the breeze that was blowing. The cigars ran a hundred to the pound, so that about eight an hour had to be consumed to win the wager. A start was made at 19 o'clock in the morning, and the affair was finished at 7 in the evening.

In the course of nine hours and twenty minutes eighty-six cigars were fairly smoked, the greatest number consumed being in the second hour, when the smoker disposed of no fewer than sixteen. At the eighty-sixth cigar, when fourteen only remained to be smoked, the backer of time gave in, finding that the smoker was bound to win, and the latter puffed the remainder away at his leisure in the course of the same evening.

The winner subsequently declared that he had not experienced the slightest difficulty or unpleasantness during the whole time he was blowing off the weeds. The only refreshment taken during the progress of the match was a chop at 2 o'clock, the eating of which occupied twenty minutes, and a gill and a half of brandy in cold water at intervals throughout the day.

# CAPTAIN CURTIS DEAD.

ather of the Kansas Congressma Passes Away at His Home in the Territory.

Washington, March 28 .- (Special.) Representative Curtis, of Topeka, to-night re-ceived the news of the sudden death of his father.

Topeka, Kas., March 28.-(Special.) Cap-There is reason to believe, according to a special dispatch from Shanghal, that the American squadron at Hong Kong, instead of waiting, as was at first supposed, in proximity to Manilla, preparatory to a Hispano-American war, is really intended as a practical display of American sympathy with Great Britain's Chinese policy. The American and British admirals, the dispatch says, have had frequent interviews. Prince Henry, of Prussia, will leave Hong Kong forthwith, in consequence of the accentuation of the crisis.

Pekin, March 28.—There is a feeling of intense dejection among the Chinese, who regard the concessions to Russia as the beginning of the end. There are many complaints of the attitude of Li Hung Chang. It is asserted by those knowing inner Chinese affairs that, since his visit to St. tain "Jack" Curtis, as he was known by all the old settlers here, came to Kansas Topeka, but disposed of it in the '90s. He married a Kansas girl and as a result of the union two children were born. Congressman Charles Curtis and a daughter, who is now private secretary to her brother. Mrs. Curtis died when the children were small and the captain married again. He was subsequently divorced from his second wife and then went to the territory to live. That was about fifteen years ago. He married for the third time and has resided in the territory ever since.

# 1898 IS WORTH WATCHING.

Not Since 1651 Has There Been So Pecultar a Numerical Com-

bination. A German statistical scientist, in an article in the Magdeburg Zeitung, calls attention to the remarkable attributes of the year 1888. No man in the present generation has lived or will live under such peculiar circumstances, a condition that has not appeared since 1851, and will not appear again until the year 2119. People imbued with a superstitious belief and members of thirteen clubs ought to watch closely the events of this remarkable year.

As a starter, the numeral 1888 can be divided by 13, and the four figures added together gives 25, which can also be divided by 13. The numeral of the year 1898 also belongs to the remarkable group of four-sided numbers, of which only eight have existed since the birth of Christ, 1898 being the ninth. Take 1898, for example. Subtract the first figure from the third and the value of the second and fourth are received. These peculiar year numbers have ben 1010, 1121, 1232, 1343, 1454, 1565, 1676, 1787, and now 1898. The last time the peculiar condition of 13 existed was in 1551. This could evenly be divided by 13, and the figures 1, 6, 5 and 1 added together give 13. year 1898. No man in the present genera-

#### HER STOMACH TAKEN AWAY. Mrs. Maggini, a Californian Who Has Parted With That Organ,

Doing Well. San Francisco, Cal., March 28.-Mrs. Maggini, whose stomach was eviscerated a onth ago, does not seem to miss what has always been considered a very necessary and useful organ. She has been gaining weight steadily since she parted company with her stomach and is on the road to recovery from one of the most wonderful and daring surgical operations ever per-

formed.

Mrs. Maggini will not be out of danger, however, until she gets rid of the little silver button which was used to fasten the intestines to the oesophagus when the stomach was removed, and until that sloughs away she will be in some danger.

#### Mrs. Ogden Mills' Bedroom. rom a New York Letter.

From a New York Letter.

The sleeping apartment of Mrs. Ogden Mills, of New York, is the envy of all her friends. Her bed is a thronelike affair that was built in America. After examining beds in the Parlsian shops, Mrs. Mills decided they were all lacking in the conveniences and comforts the modern American woman demands for her sleeping hours. So she came home, and of very plain oak her bed was built, the lofty canopy frame put up, the embroideries, ordered from an American needlewoman, hung, and then the great curtains and coverild were edged with forty pounds of bullion fringe. These requisites for a perfect Marie Antoinette bed brought the price of it up far into the thousands, but the end was not yet. A wonderful foundation of spiral steel springs first lined the inside of the couch, on the top of this a thin felt mattress was placed, and then on top a hair bed, slipped in a big silken cover, before sheets or blankets could be laid on. Finally the headboard, decorated by the brush of an American artist, was put into place, and lastly the electrician was cailed in to give the finishing touches. The good offices of the electrician were not an original idea on the part of Mrs. Mills, for all the new beds, built for comfort as well as beauty, have first of all a tiny button that anyone lying on the pillow can easily reach, touch and turn on the light in a group of bulbs artistically arranged in the headboard. In Mrs. Mills' bed a couple of gilded Cupids in this board hold each a spray of lights that shed their radiance down softly over the pillow at the each appray of lights that shed their radiance down softly over the pillow at the each appray of lights that shed their radiance down softly over the pillow at the each appray of lights that shed their radiance down softly over the pillow at the each appray of lights that shed their radiance down softly over the pillow at the each appray of lights. that shed their radiance down softly over the pillow at the exact angle needed for comfortable reading. To make the light perfectly agreeable and easy for the eyes the globes of glass are first ground and then treated with a varnish that subdues the hard electric glare.

### PUT THE SAILORS TO SHAME. A LEVEE GOES OUT. Cattlemen on the Philadelphian Did

Earnest Work Saving Lives of Mariners. From the Boston Evening Record.

A cattleman's a creature
Wot it's best to leave alone
If 'es a-wearing Sunday clothes,
'Es picked a fellow's bone.
'Es full of sicppy weather
Yet sometimes it may be
'E teaches British sallors
'Ow to face the raging sea.
When the Leyiand liner Philadelphia
pulled up to her dock at Liverpool with the
lamp-trimmer acting as quartermaster and

amp-trimmer acting as quartermaster and

pulled up to her dock at Liverpool with the lamp-trimmer acting as quartermaster and half her crew below on the sick list, on her last outward trip, the marine reporters looked for a sea story.

All they heard was that the ship had lost two men at sea while trying to reach a craft in distress. When last Tuesday the Philadelphian pulled up at East Boston. Commercial street heard the rest of the story. Yesterday from "Hell's Kitchen," at the upper end to "The Sailor's Home, near the market, in all the dark, dingy little offices, where men sign for \$13 per month to man pumps to Bombay and back again, they were telling it over; how Tom Reed, refrigerator man, and Mathew Duffy, cattleman, put the foremast hands to shame.

The Philadelphian left Boston, outward, January 26. She carried her full crew and some twenty cattlemen. It was holiday sailing for the first part of the trip, a sea without a wrinkle, not enough wind to clap the signal lines against the mast.

February 3, when they were 900 miles off Fastnet, came a change. The morning opened as black as the inside of a slik hat, and the sea began to leave the forefoot of the steamer. About 4 p. m. the man on the watch reported a ship down on the line, showing three balls, a signal of distress.

It was the tramp Tabasco, out from Sunderland, bound to the West Coast. She had lost her propeller and wanted a tow. The Philadelphian brought up within a mile of her and down went a boat with six men and a heavy line. They made that fast, but the very starting of the engines broke it.

The lines, one after the other, were passed over. The boat crew had been al-

Three lines, one after the other, were passed over. The boat crew had been almost three hours on the water, and it had grown so dark that it was useless to go over the side. So all night long the two lay side by side.

The wind was strong from the southwest next morning. It was blowing down half a mountain gale, and the seas were pilling up.

west next morning. It was blowing down half a mountain gale, and the seas were pilling up.

When the boat was ordered away at 6:39 o'clock, the ships were bowing up and down at one another like a pair of slack wire performers.

Cullen, King, Taylor, Sheffield, Quartermaster Dumbell and another seaman took their places in the boat. It all happened in a minute. The stern fall on the davits parted and five of the six boat's crew were thrown into the water.

Cullen alone held to his seat, while the boat splashed below. A wild cry went up from the men in the water. They grabbed at the oars and floating stuff in the boat. The steamer was just under way, and in two minutes she had left the men astern, black spots in the white faced winter sea. Full speed ahead she was put to bring her around to weather of the men. Then in that position orders were given to lower a boat to pick the men up.

There was a hullabaloo on deck as the sailormen were ordered into the boat. Not a man moved. The officers yelled and shouted; they drove the redhot words of shame into the sailormen—words that were reinforced from the water below, where the faint cries of the drowning men were heard.

To the credit of the officers, they came

where the faint cries of the drowning men were heard.

To the credit of the officers, they came forward. The second mate and bos'un led into the rescue boat, and a quartermaster, fireman and one sailor followed. Still one was needed. Then Matthew Duffy, the cattleman, sprang forward. Leaping to the rail he turned to look back at the men.

the rail he turned to look back at the men.

"Will you leave your pals drown?" he yelled. "Shame on you for sail rmen!" and he leaped into the vacant seat.

Down went the boat with a crash. The sea was tumbling around and the boat tossed to a turning point. Down went the oars, but the craft slipped to leeward.

Even while they were making for the men, Taylor, one of the sailormen, threw up his hands. "Good-by, boys," he cried, and down he went. A minute later Sheffield, to whom the quartermaster had given an oar, threw it toward him. "I'm done. Tom," he said, "take this and try and keep up."

The men in the rescue boat grew white and cold as they saw the sailor go down. On deek the holdbacks looked on without a sound.

# A POET'S PRETTY WIFE.

First Visit of Mrs. Richard Le Gal-Henne to the United

States. Julie Nooregard Le Gallienne, the wife of the well known English writer, Richard of the well known English writer, Richard Le Gallienne, to whom she has been married just a year, is a charming looking woman, a little over medium height, slight, with hair of nondescript shade, neither brown nor golden, large gray eyes and a figure petite and well formed. She is Danish by birth, having resided in England only six years, the first two of which were spent in acquiring the language, which she speaks with the slightest possible accent, just enough to lend piquancy and quite in keeping with her distinctive personality. Her English home is at Hazlemere, a suburb of London, where there is a small literary colony, including Conan Doyle and Grant White, the author of the famous novel, "The Woman Who Did." Mrs. Le Galllenne was engaged in literary work before her marriage and is at present furnishing a series of articles on "Beauty Embroidered" for the Woman, a London publication. She has also written on Danish art for the London Studio and has been on the staff of the London Stad and Morning Leader, corresponded for the Danish Politike, published in Copenhagen, and is at present under contract from a number of American papers and magazines. Le Gallienne, to whom she has been mar-

# Unless the Police Interfered.

Unless the Police Interfered.

"I chanced to overhear a conversation a few weeks ago in Havana that was both interesting and amusing," remarked a gentleman who was until recently connected officially with the United States consulate at Havana. to a Washington Star reporter. while dining in a cafe one even ing my attention was attracted by a Spanish officer and an Englishman seated at an adjoining table. The Spaniard, who was a well known officer, was somewhat flushed with wine, and he spoke in loud tones, his remarks being fraught with braggadocio. The Englishman was also a well known resident of Havana, havirer large business interests there.

"I cite this incident" continued the exoficial, "merely to show that the Spaniard feel thoroughly confident that they could make a strong, if not overpowering, showing in case of war with this country, The subject was discussed by the Spaniard and the Englishman for several moments, until finally the former sneeringly said: "Why, I could land in Florida with \$2,000 men and walk right through the whole United States."

"The reply of the Englishman was the amusing part of the incident.

"Yes, you could," he said in the most sarcastic manner; 'yes, you could—if the police didn't stop you."

She Was a Belle.

She Was a Belle.

From the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press.

They are employed in offices in the Michigan Trust building, just across the hall from each other, he and she. Her employer has a Citizens' telephone, his has a Bell instrument. There is little need of a mutual understanding between the two offices that the 'phones are for the common usage of both, because neither office often has occasion to use any other kind of 'phone besides its own.

An exceptional occasion presented itself the other day, however, and he stepped across to her office.

"Have you a Citizens' 'phone?' he asked, and she replied in the affirmative.

"Well,' he ventured, 'Tm a citizen. Can I use it?"

Why, of course, he could use it. But inwardily she was inclined to envy his ability to stand up and assert his citizenship in this way, for some of her womanly propensities were of the "newish" sort. An hour later she balanced accounts with him. "Have you a Bell telephone?" she asked, on stepping into his office. He did not try to deny it.

"Well, I'm a belle, can I use it?"

She-"But I have never given you any encouragement."

He-"You have frequently alluded to your rich relatives."

THOUSANDS OF ACRES UNDER WAT-ER AT SULLIVAN, IND.

MANY FAMILIES IN DANGER.

OHIO RISING RAPIDLY AND MAY BREAK ITS LEVEES.

Has Reached a Stage of Over Sixtyone Feet at Cincinnati-River Pirates Are Reaping a Rich Harvest in the Flooded District.

Sullivan, Ind., March 28.-The leves on the Wabash river went out to-night with a break of 100 feet, entailing a loss of \$100,000. Twenty thousand acres of land are overflowed, and hundreds of families are rendered homeless and destitute. Citizens are responding for miles around in their efforts to remove families and stock. Hundreds of cattle and horses are hemmed in. Such a rush of water was never known in this section of the country before,

A calamity, second only to the great Johnstown flood, is upon us. The levee is eleven miles long and was built at a cost of A grand effort is being made to rescue the

families from their submerged homes, The Indiana & Ilinois railroad suffers a serious loss. The road officials are directing and rendering every assistance in the work of relief. The waters at this hour, 3 o'clock, are making a mad rush through the bottom lands, uprooting trees and tak-ing everything in its path. It is feared that many people who were slow to take warning, will meet death in the flood. A dispatch from Emeirson says that 12,000 bushels of corn and rixty-five hogs were swept away by the floods to-day.

An Osgood special says: The B. & O. S. W. railroad cannot run trains over this part of the road. The track east of here between Lawrenceburg and Aurora for three and one-half miles is four feet under water. Trains go to Cincinnati by North Vernon via the Big Four The Ohio is rising at the rate of five

inches an hour with no immediate pros-pects of stopping. The conditions \*ure

break at Lawrenceburg are entertained. The Wabash reached 22.7 feet to-day, this The Wabash reached 22.7 feet to-day, this being the highest ever known and is still rising. The levees below the city which have stood the pressure gave way this afternoon and the lowiands of Lawrence county, already inundated by the overflow, will soon be a sea of water. The suffering and loss of property will be great.

Cincinnati, March 28.—Until the weather becomes settled there can be no reliable prediction in regard to the flood in the Ohio. But for the rain which began about 2 o'clock this morning in the Ohio valley the river here would not have reached sixty feet. The precipitation here up to 7 o'clock this morning was one-half inch. Tonight rain is reported from the same storm from Portsmouth to Parkersburg. Nevertheless the Ohio is falling at all points above here. The swell that brought the Ohio to sixty-one feet one inch here this morning came from the Big Miami, below, the Little Miami above and from the hill side torrents on both banks of the river further up stream. From 5 to 8 o'clock this afternoon the river was stationary. Since then it has risen one-tenth of a foot hourly and at 10 o'clock is sixty-one and three-tenths. What it shall be to-morrow depends wholly on whether or not there will be additional rainfall in the Ohio valley. All railways are running trains on their regular lines to-night. The condition of peopie exiled from homes by water is the same as yesterday.

The only difference in the flooded districts from that reported last night is that the water is nearly two feet deeper. It has reached the foot of the hill nearly everywhere, so that to extend its invasion it will have to rise relatively much higher. Steamboat navigation down the river continues without interruption. If there is no more rainfall the river will begin to decline about midnight at about \$1.5 feet and after that will run out rapidly.

River pirates are reaping a harvest. being the highest ever known and is still

that will run out rapidly.

River pirates are reaping a harvest. These are fresh water tramps of unknown antecedents and mysterious means of subsistence who infest the whole length of the river, living in shanty boats. They are all astir in skiffs now picking up whatever they can lay hands on, and compelling owners ashore to place a double guard on property.

#### property. The Banker and the Farmer.

The Banker and the Farmer.

From Harper's Weekly.

The Hon. J. H. Churchill illustrates the staying qualities of alfalfa by saying:

"The alfalfa farm is a dividend paying investment through all kinds of seasons, an insurance against hail, as well as a guarantee from drouth. I have seen a field in bloom cut to the ground by a June hail, and in less than thirty days blooming again for the harvest. What other crop will do that?

There are many men in the West to-day."

There are many men in the West to-day who have recognized the truth of what Mr. Churchill says. The crop fallures of recent years showed that it paid to raise alfalfa. One of the best known newspaper writers in Nebraska, J. W. Johnson, told in the Nebraska State Journal, on November 21 last, a story that illustrated this fact graphically. He had been driving near Culbertson, in the western part of Nebraska, and his companion stopped suddenly and pointed out a brick bank building in town and a white farmhouse not far from town. Those buildings concerned the careers of two men. One was a banker who had come out into Nebraska about fitteen years before. He had been county treasurer of one of the best known counties of lowa, and had brought with him to Nebraska nearly \$30.000, with which he started a bank. He did very well, until hard times came along, and then he got into difficulities. The other man was a Russian peasant, who came to the same place a year or two later. It took about all of his savings to get to his destination, so that it is said of him that when he reached culberson he was as "poor as a rat." That man got hold of a bushel of alfalfa seed his savings to get to his destination, so that it is said of him that when he reached Culberson he was as "poor as a rat." That man got hold of a bushel of alfalfa seed and he raised as much of the hay as he could from it, increasing his crop year by year. He raised cattle and hogs as well. He always had crops when corn and wheat and other cereals falled, and he always had live stock to sell. He soon so prospered that he gave to each of his sons at marriage a farm, and to his daughter, who was married not long ago, he gave \$1.000 in cash—an unheard of wedding gift for a farmer to make out in that territory. This alfalfa grower had considerable business to do with the bank. According to Mr. Johnson, when he found that the bank was in trouble, he demanded his money. The bank went down, but the farmer remained in control, and the banker had to quit. Alfalfa for that man had not only withstood all the storms of nature, but had helped him to survive the financial storms that had swept over that region. Those farmers in the West who have raised alfalfa with care and intelligence are not among the people who are distressingly poor.

# They Pass Unnoticed.

"It is a common experience with the initiated," said a popular actor recently, "that theatrical audiences—provincial ones especially—from time to time hear most ridiculous blunders on the stage without retiging them.

especially—from time to time hear most ridiculous blunders on the stage without noticing them.

"An actor, who was more remarkable for a quick than accurate 'study,' once expressed himself as follows:

"The hansom cab was picked up off the Esplanade with a handkerchief tightly tied about its mouth: when removed, it was found to be perfectly dead.

"Not the least ripple on the part of the audience followed to show that their risible faculties had been touched. A few nights later, confused by the unmerciful chaffing of the company, he said:

"The Esplanade was picked up off the man,' etc., with precisely similar results.

"During the production of a recent London success in a large provincial town, the 'heavy man,' who had just caused the hero to be locked up on a charge of murder, addressed the heroine in these words:

"But, believe me, you have my fullest sympathy. If I, like yourself, have given evidence against the prisoner, I only spoke of what I saw and heard, although I knew the man to be my lover and your rival."

rival."
"The people on the stage were conwilsed with suppressed laughter, but,
strange to say, the audience remained perfectly passive."

Bones—"Williams is bound to get on in life. He has a will of his own." Morgan— "Yes, but he wouldn't mind being men-tioned in somebody else's."—Tit-Bits,